

Maricopa Association of Governments Receives Freeway System High Marks In Audit

The public should have a high level of confidence in its investment in the Maricopa regional freeway system, an independent audit has found.

The study also gave the Maricopa Association of Governments high marks for developing prioritization criteria and a consensus-building process for the system and said the Arizona Department of Transportation's revenue

forecasting and cost-estimating techniques are reliable.

"The public should also rest assured that ADOT and MAG are delivering full value for its investment in the regional freeway system," concludes the study, undertaken by the consulting firm of David M. Griffith & Associates, Ltd., of Burlingame, California, on behalf of the State Auditor General.

"We are very pleased that this audit confirms that the many reforms and management controls that MAG and ADOT have put into place over the last five years have been effective," said James M. Bourey, MAG executive director.

The consulting firm assembled a team of accountants, engineers, organizational development specialists and economists who spent 1,500 hours researching and studying the freeway system.

"Program controls are in place and are functioning as intended to ensure that the regional freeway system will be completed on time and within budget," the report said.

The Regional Area Road Fund sales tax initiative, passed by the voters of Maricopa County in 1985, allowed ADOT to build a network of freeways in the area. Approximately 155 miles remain to be completed within the regional freeway system, of which 108 will be completed by the year 2006.

The audit, a 125-page document that was shared with members of the Arizona Legislature, includes

Freeway Audit continued on page 7

INSIDE
this issue

From the Chair	2	Clean Cities Recognition	5
Updated MAG Web Site	3	Census 2000	6
Preserving Desert Land	4	Clean Air Goals	6
Region 2025 Vision	Insert	MAG Regional Awards	7



From the Chair



Glendale Mayor,
Elaine M. Scruggs

Did you know that even with a doubling of the number of miles traveled over the past thirty years we have reduced the number of times we have exceeded the wintertime carbon monoxide standard from 230 in 1968 to less than four each year since 1990? That is progress we can be proud of, even though we all know there is still more we can do to protect public health by helping to improve our air quality. We are making measurable progress, and I would like to take this opportunity to focus on some of our achievements in this area as well as some of the efforts we currently are making to ensure that our progress continues.

Each of us has contributed to this region's efforts to clean our air. For example, we use I/M 240, a stricter emissions test that measures emissions when we idle and drive our conventional fuel

and diesel vehicles. We buy special fuels that pollute the air less than traditional gasoline. We use vapor recovery nozzles at the gas pump. Various government and business entities are converting their fleets to such alternative fuels as compressed natural gas and electricity. Businesses with more than 50 employees have trip reduction programs. We are working together to synchronize traffic signals and use truck covers to control dust. Within the last year, we have introduced voluntary retirement programs for vehicles and lawn and garden equipment. We also have enhanced some of our current efforts in dust control, emissions testing and ridesharing.

We know that we must now move more aggressively than ever toward making sure the air we breathe meets the federal standards. Toward this end, I have been appointed in my capacity as Chairman of the MAG Regional Council to serve on the Governor's Air Quality Strategies Task Force, which will be engaging in in-depth discussions of the Valley's air quality issues and making recommendations to the legislature.

However, as Roger Ferland, one of the co-chairmen of the Task Force, emphasized at the first meeting, it is absolutely critical that the Task Force select measures based on considerations of economic and political practicality. Proposals that have no practical possibility of enactment

REGIONAL council members

◆ Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs	Glendale, <i>Chair</i>
◆ Mayor Neil Giuliano	Tempe, <i>Vice Chair</i>
◆ Mayor Skip Rimsza	Phoenix, <i>Treasurer</i>
Mayor Thomas Morales	Avondale
Mayor J. "Mike" Baker	Buckeye
Vice Mayor Hugh Stevens	Carefree
Mayor Tom Aughterton	Cave Creek
◆ Mayor Jay Tibshraeny	Chandler
Mayor Maggie Reese	El Mirage
Mayor Jerold Miles	Fountain Hills
Mayor Chuck Turner	Gila Bend
Governor Mary Thomas	Gila River Indian Community
Mayor Cynthia Dunham	Gilbert
Mayor William Arnold	Goodyear
Mayor Frances Osuna	Guadalupe
Mayor Richard Vasiloff	Litchfield Park
Supervisor Don Stapley	Maricopa County
Mayor Wayne Brown	Mesa
Councilmember Sara Moya	Paradise Valley
Mayor John Keegan	Peoria
Mayor Mark Schnepf	Queen Creek
President Ivan Makil	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mayor Sam Kathryn Campana	Scottsdale
Mayor Joan Shafer	Surprise
Mayor Adolfo Gamez	Tolleson
◆ Mayor Dallas Gant	Wickenburg
Mayor William Kusanovich	Youngtown
F. Rockne Arnett	Arizona Department of Transportation
Charles Coughlin	Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
◆ Executive Committee Members	

MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments addressing the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, 254-6300.

Elaine M. Scruggs
Mayor of Glendale
Chairman

James M. Bourey
Executive Director

Hardt & Junck Associates
Editors

Gordon Tyus
Graphic Design




Chair continued on page 3

Chair continued from page 2

or implementation will do nothing to accomplish the goal shared by all stakeholders in this matter—the development of a *meaningful* and *effective* plan to improve the quality of our air. In addition, as Chairman of the Task Force's PM-10 Subcommittee, I am open to whatever information or proposals you are able to provide on the issue of particulate pollution.

I will need your help as I work together with interest groups, private industry representatives, local agencies, and elected officials to develop a plan that will tackle the region's particulate problem in a way we all can live with.

In the end, meeting this air quality challenge will require a real partnership among all of us in the coming years. Each and every one of us must seek out opportunities to make a difference in this area; we share this burden equally, along with the responsibility to help alleviate it. Regional cooperation is the key to making the important decisions that will have a positive and lasting impact on our future. 

point your browser to
<http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/>

In addition to extensive information about MAG, planning activities and the work of policy and technical committees, the site provides links to the web sites

of member agencies including most of the cities and towns in Maricopa County.

The site also provides access to electronic documents, including presentations, maps, *MAGAZine* newsletters, as well as the agendas and minutes of Regional Council and Management Committee meetings.

MAG is committed to continue to update the site as a way to provide timely information to the public, so visit often. Your feedback is appreciated, and you can send e-mail messages to:

mag@mag.maricopa.gov

Rita Walton, 254-6300,
for more information.



Updated MAG Web Site

Interested in following a committee or keeping on top of a regional issue? MAG has completely revised its web site to make it more comprehensive and easy to use. The site continues to be updated regularly with additional information about MAG's projects and meeting schedules.

Maricopa Citizens Support Preserving Desert Land

Most citizens in the Maricopa County area support a plan to preserve desert land by spending \$500 million to purchase open spaces.

That's the conclusion of a recent survey of citizen attitudes, which found that 71 percent of the residents support the plan. The survey was initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments Desert Spaces Plan Implementation Task Force and conducted by the Mellman Group, a Washington, D.C. research group.

The survey contacted 805 registered voters in Maricopa County in the last week of October. The region-wide survey has a margin of error of 3.5 percent.

The Desert Spaces Plan was adopted by the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council in October, 1995. It identifies more than 4.5 million acres of open spaces for conservation and retention. Areas identified for conservation would be retained for public open space and not developed. Retention areas are considered appropriate for sensitive development that retains the characteristics of the natural resources on the site.

The survey found that the support for funding the Desert Spaces Plan is robust among Valley residents.

"Even after hearing about the details of the plan, support for it

increased – which is unusual," said Mark Mellman, president of the Mellman Group. "Typically, support for a plan declines after people hear about its details. Support for the plan stayed at high levels after voters heard reasons to oppose it."

In every subgroup of voters there was more support for the plan than opposition to it.

Only 11 percent surveyed said they believe that there is currently too much protected open space in Maricopa County. A majority of people believes that buying land is the only way to preserve it, and that zoning laws cannot guarantee that open space will be available for public use.

Support for funding the Desert Spaces Plan was high valley-wide. Voters viewed the most likely benefits of the plan as protecting the unique topography, vegetation, and wildlife in the region. Enhancing the quality of life and tourism were also seen as important benefits of the plan.

Rivers, local parks, recreation facilities, and mountains were viewed as the most important resources to protect. Also viewed as key targets for preservation were archeological sites and Saguaro cactus habitats.

Those surveyed said the most compelling reasons to support the plan were the need to keep this region from becoming like Los Angeles, the need to protect



open spaces for future generations, and the need to protect natural greenways and trails that provide a welcome escape from the urban city.

The Desert Spaces Plan explores a variety of funding alternative possibilities for the purchase of the land, including a regional tax and fund-raising from private donors.

The survey was conducted for the Desert Spaces Plan Implementation Task Force to help it develop recommendations to the Regional Council on ways to implement the Desert Spaces Plan. The survey is part of an overall implementation program for the plan which also includes developing design guidelines for development in retention areas identified in the Desert Spaces Plan. 

Leslie Dornfeld, 254-6300,
for more information.

U.S. Names Region a “Clean Cities” Community

The U.S. Department of Energy recently honored the Valley’s plan to improve air quality and designated the Maricopa County region as a “Clean Cities” community, a designation given to only a handful of cities annually.

The Clean Cities Program is an effort by USDOE to recognize urban areas in which public and private vehicle fleet operators are working together to meet the objectives of the Energy Policy Act and the Clean Air Act. “Clean Cities” designations recognize progressive plans to address air quality problems and reduce dependence on imported, fossil fuels, through the introduction and use of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

In the Maricopa County region, the “Clean Cities” designation is a first step to creating a network of alternative fuel stations throughout the Valley and building alternative fuel vehicle fleets.

The Maricopa Clean Cities Coalition represents one of the nation’s largest and most diverse partnerships of public and private entities. It brings together 26 local and private entities – fleet owners, fuel suppliers, school districts, utilities and local and state government – to work toward the creation of a viable alternative fuels market.

Two years ago, the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council initiated a Clean Cities Program effort. State and local officials have implemented some of the strictest air quality requirements in the nation. These include restrictions on wood-burning fireplaces, strict emission standards, mandatory vapor recovery and the use of oxygenated fuels.

More recently, the Arizona Clean Air Fund was established by the Arizona Legislature and is expected to help provide incentives for driving alternative fuel vehicles and building supporting infrastructure. Starting in fiscal year 1998-99, the Clean Air Fund will provide about \$10 million



annually to be funneled to public and private entities to be used to build public refueling stations, assist individuals and business for home and business refueling, provide funds to municipalities and school districts for alternative fuel programs and vehicles, pay for high-occupancy lanes for alternative fuel vehicles and provide grants for the incremental costs of new alternative fuel public-transit buses.

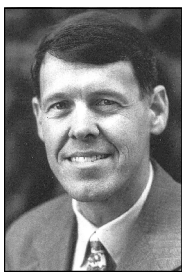
The most common alternative fuel vehicles run on compressed natural gas, propane or electricity. Other fuels include solar and hydrogen. About 4,000 alternative fuel vehicles drive on Phoenix metropolitan streets every day.

Brian Castelli, DOE Chief of Staff for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs, presented the Clean Cities Award to James M. Bourey, executive director of the Maricopa Association of Governments, on behalf of the Regional Council.

“The challenge of cleaning our air cannot rest on the shoulders of just one group,” Bourey said. “It will take a strong partnership of government, industry and the private sector to band together to tackle this important task. I am honored to accept this designation from the Department of Energy and look forward to working with our partners to continue addressing air quality challenges and reducing our dependency on foreign oil.”

Leslie Dornfeld, 254-6300, for more information.

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James M. Bourey
to Serve on
Census 2000
Advisory Group


Census 2000 Advisory Group

Maricopa Association of Governments Executive Director James M. Bourey will serve on a committee advising the U.S. Census Bureau on how best to count Americans in the year 2000.

Bourey has been asked to help plan the next census, representing the International City/County Management Association on the Census Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

The last national census was taken in 1990. In 1995, MAG, working with the Bureau of the Census, undertook a special census in the Maricopa County region at the request of local government representatives. That special census, the largest mid-decade census ever taken in the United States, showed the population of Maricopa County had increased by more than 429,000 people in five years—to a total of 2,551,765.

Census counts are important because population, housing and transportation-related information obtained during the counting process is used for a wide range of decisions, including the allocation of billions of dollars in federal and state-shared revenues annually.

Bourey's selection will not only allow this area to be well informed and prepared for the 2000 Census, but will also give our cities an excellent opportunity to provide input on how the census is conducted. 

Harry Wolfe, 254-6300, for more information.

Clean Air is Goal of MAG

Valley residents deserve clean air, and the Maricopa Association of Governments is working aggressively towards assuring that they have it.

While programs already initiated by state and local governments have helped to generally improve air quality in this rapidly growing region, total compliance with federal standards has thus far proven to be beyond reach. The date by which the federal standard for particulate matter must be met by the region is December 31, 2001.

Told that a combination of factors make it unlikely that the deadline can be met, the local officials who make up the MAG Regional Council recently agreed to:


- Convene an air pollution summit of decision-makers, including legislators and representatives of the governor, to explore particulate matter (soot, grime, dust) issues that are keeping the Maricopa County region from meeting federal clean air standards. Although officials are sure to study recent technology such as new vacuum street cleaners that could carry a large price tag for the region, the area would still not be able to meet particulate matter clean air standards by the current deadline.
- Move aggressively to recommend state and local government enactment of measures that will enable the region to

meet federal standards, at the same time seeking an extension of the federal deadline by which the standard must be met. Even if the extension is granted, immediate action must be taken to achieve the new federal standard because sufficient improvement will require time, explained Lindy Bauer, environmental manager for MAG.

The local mayors, city councilmen and other elected officials who make up the MAG Regional Council noted that the Maricopa County region faces difficult barriers in its effort to clean the air. Its rapidly growing population brings with it more pollution. The natural desert environment, when its crust is disturbed by construction and other growth activities, creates clouds of particulate matter to contribute to the problem.

Other areas with similar environments and growth patterns such as Las Vegas and Southern California are facing similar challenges.

Despite the significant barriers, the government leaders said, the air must be cleaned up.

The members of the MAG Regional Council noted that the ultimate beneficiary of achieving clean air will be the quality of life for each person in the region. And they pledged to develop alternative ideas that will lead the region in that direction. 

Lindy Bauer, 254-6300, for more information.

MAG Awards to Honor Outstanding Commitment to Regionalism

Regional achievements indicate the strength of the Maricopa Association of Governments member agencies – local governments working together.

The first annual Maricopa Association of Governments Awards Evening is being planned for the Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 24, 1998. The awards will recognize innovation and achievement in the region, and provide not only a celebration of accomplishments, but also information about each other's successes. The awards will be presented for both individual excellence and regional partnership. Initial suggestions for awards include:


- **Regional Excellence** for the one individual who has

demonstrated commitment to the spirit of regionalism.

- **Regional Cooperation** for the two or more local governments that have demonstrated commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts.
- **Regional Project** for the local government that has demonstrated a commitment to the concept of regionalism through a project that benefits the entire MAG region.
- **Public-Private Partnership** for the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to the concept of regionalism through a public-private partnership.
- **Distinguished Service Award(s)**

for individuals who have contributed time and effort to the concept of regionalism, through program or committee involvement.

- **Maricopa Association of Governments Employee of the Year** for the employee that has, through his/her attitude, demonstrated a commitment to regionalism and cooperation.

The panel for these awards will include representatives of the business community, universities and local government elected officials and managers. Nominations for these outstanding service awards will be solicited by MAG early in 1998. Nomination forms will also be available at the MAG office. 

Rita Walton, 254-6300, for more information.


Freeway Audit continued from page 1

recommendations that the legislature do the following:

- Provide greater latitude to ADOT and MAG in implementing strategies for developing alternative funding sources;
- Create greater uniformity in state statutes pertaining to the types of investment securities in which ADOT and the State Treasurer may invest.

The study also recommended that ADOT and MAG engage in

additional outreach efforts to promote public confidence in the accountability that exists over their performance.

The firm acknowledged “the exceptional degree of cooperation that we received from ADOT and MAG” and noted that “a performance audit of this scope and depth could not have been accomplished in such a short period of time without the active support of these two entities.” 

Eric Anderson, 470-1107, for more information.



Construction continues on the MAG Freeway System.

January	February	March
<p>6th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>7th 1:30 PM, Spec and Details Subcommittee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>8th 9:00 AM, Region 2025 Vision Committee, <i>The Buttes, Tempe</i></p> <p>9th 8:30 AM, Air Quality Summit, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>13th 1:30 PM, Street Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>14th 12:00 PM, Management Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>14th 2:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>15th 9:00 AM, Pedestrian Working Group, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>15th 12:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating and Technical Committees Annual Meeting, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>20th 10:00 AM, Regional Bicycle Task Force, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>21st 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>22nd 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>22nd 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>22nd 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>27th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>28th 5:00 PM, Regional Council, <i>Saguaro</i></p>	<p>4th 1:30 PM, Spec and Details Subcommittee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>5th 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>10th 12:00 PM, Management Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>10th 1:30 PM, Street Committee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>17th 10:00 AM, Regional Bicycle Task Force, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>18th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>19th 2:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>24th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>25th 5:00 PM, Regional Council, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>26th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>26th 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p>	<p>4th 1:30 PM, Spec and Details Subcommittee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>5th 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>10th 1:30 PM, Street Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>11th 12:00 PM, Management Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>17th 10:00 AM, Regional Bicycle Task Force, <i>Ocotillo</i></p> <p>18th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>19th 2:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>24th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>25th 5:00 PM, Regional Council, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>26th 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group, <i>Saguaro</i></p> <p>26th 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee, <i>Ocotillo</i></p>

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. Please call 254-6300 for confirmation.

The Saguaro, Ocotillo, Palo Verde and Cholla conference rooms are located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Norwest Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue.

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation.



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